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09/803,396	03/09/2001	Akira Nonaka	450100-03058	8707
20999	7590	04/11/2005		EXAMINER
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG 745 FIFTH AVENUE- 10TH FL. NEW YORK, NY 10151			CANGIALOSI, SALVATORE A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3621	

DATE MAILED: 04/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/803,396	NONAKA, AKIRA	
	Examiner Salvatore Cangialosi	Art Unit 3621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 June 2001.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-49 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-49 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

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1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103 which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under subsection (f) or (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

2. Claims 1-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable Ryan (5513260) in view of Blatter et al(5933500) alone or further in view of Hirai (6839503).

Regarding claim 1, Ryan (See Fig. 1, Col. 1, lines 60-65, Col. 3, lines 30-65) disclose a means for reproducing content (cd player), a recorder and means there between for examining and controlling transfer (black boxes) substantially as claimed. The differences between the above and the claimed invention is the use of explicit control. It is noted that a committed content duplicator would control and examine files illicitly copied (and has done so since for at least a decade with the advent of peer to peer file sharing) and is therefore believed to be the functional equivalent of the claimed

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limitations. Otherwise resort can be had to Blatter et al (Fig. 2). Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication. It would have been obvious to the person having ordinary skill in this art to provide a similar arrangement for Ryan because the control elements are conventional functional equivalents and between reproduction and recording selection and control must always exist. Regarding claim 2, Ryan (See Fig. 1, Col. 1, lines 60-65, Col. 3, lines 30-65) disclose a means for reproducing content (cd player), a recorder and means there between for examining and controlling transfer (black boxes) substantially as claimed. The differences between the above and the claimed invention is the use of explicit authentication control. It is noted that a committed content duplicator would control and examine files illicitly copied (and has done so since for at least a decade with the advent of peer to peer file sharing) and is therefore believed to be the functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Otherwise resort can be had to Blatter et al (Fig. 2). Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication. It would have been obvious to the person having ordinary skill in this art to provide a similar arrangement for Ryan because the control elements are conventional functional equivalents and between reproduction and recording selection and control must always exist. Regarding disabling limitations of claim 3, Hirai (See

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Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication with copy prevention (See Col. 9, lines 55-65) (Note that each of the applied items of evidence prevents and thus disables illegal copying) that is a functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Regarding disabling limitations of claim 4, Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication with copy prevention (See Col. 9, lines 55-65) (Note that each of the applied items of evidence prevents and thus disables illegal copying) that is a functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Regarding the enabling limitations claim 5, Ryan (See Fig. 1, Col. 1, lines 60-65, Col. 3, lines 30-65) disclose a means for reproducing content (cd player), a recorder and means there between for examining and controlling transfer (black boxes) for clear text cd which reproduction is enabled(that is common to all cd duplication systems) that is a functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Regarding the enabling limitations claim 6, Ryan (See Fig. 1, Col. 1, lines 60-65, Col. 3, lines 30-65) disclose a means for reproducing content (cd player), a recorder and means there between for examining and controlling transfer (black boxes) for clear text cd which reproduction is enabled(that is common to all cd duplication systems) that is a functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Regarding disabling limitations of claim 7, Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction

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and recording means with system control and encryption or authentication with copy prevention (See Col. 9, lines 55-65) (Note that each of the applied items of evidence prevents and thus disables illegal copying) that is a functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Regarding disabling limitations of claim 8, Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication with copy prevention (See Col. 9, lines 55-65) (Note that each of the applied items of evidence prevents and thus disables illegal copying) that is a functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Regarding the enabling limitations claim 9, Ryan (See Fig. 1, Col. 1, lines 60-65, Col. 3, lines 30-65) disclose a means for reproducing content (cd player), a recorder and means there between for examining and controlling transfer (black boxes) for clear text cd which reproduction is enabled(that is common to all cd duplication systems) that is a functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Regarding the enabling limitations claim 10, Ryan (See Fig. 1, Col. 1, lines 60-65, Col. 3, lines 30-65) disclose a means for reproducing content (cd player), a recorder and means there between for examining and controlling transfer (black boxes) for clear text cd which reproduction is enabled(that is common to all cd duplication systems) that is a functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Regarding disabling limitations of claim 11, Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system

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control and encryption or authentication with copy prevention (See Col. 9, lines 55-65) (Note that each of the applied items of evidence prevents and thus disables illegal copying) that is a functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Regarding disabling limitations of claim 12, Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication with copy prevention (See Col. 9, lines 55-65) (Note that each of the applied items of evidence prevents and thus disables illegal copying) that is a functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Regarding the enabling limitations claim 13, Ryan (See Fig. 1, Col. 1, lines 60-65, Col. 3, lines 30-65) disclose a means for reproducing content (cd player), a recorder and means there between for examining and controlling transfer (black boxes) for clear text cd which reproduction is enabled(that is common to all cd duplication systems) that is a functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Regarding the enabling limitations claim 14, Ryan (See Fig. 1, Col. 1, lines 60-65, Col. 3, lines 30-65) disclose a means for reproducing content (cd player), a recorder and means there between for examining and controlling transfer (black boxes) for clear text cd which reproduction is enabled(that is common to all cd duplication systems) that is a functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Regarding disabling limitations of claim 15, Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption or

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authentication with copy prevention (See Col. 9, lines 55-65) (Note that each of the applied items of evidence prevents and thus disables illegal copying) that is a functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Regarding disabling limitations of claim 16, Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication with copy prevention (See Col. 9, lines 55-65) (Note that each of the applied items of evidence prevents and thus disables illegal copying) that is a functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Regarding the enabling limitations claim 17, Ryan (See Fig. 1, Col. 1, lines 60-65, Col. 3, lines 30-65) disclose a means for reproducing content (cd player), a recorder and means there between for examining and controlling transfer (black boxes) for clear text cd which reproduction is enabled(that is common to all cd duplication systems) that is a functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Regarding the enabling limitations claim 18, Ryan (See Fig. 1, Col. 1, lines 60-65, Col. 3, lines 30-65) disclose a means for reproducing content (cd player), a recorder and means there between for examining and controlling transfer (black boxes) for clear text cd which reproduction is enabled(that is common to all cd duplication systems) that is a functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Regarding claim 19, Ryan (See Fig. 1, Col. 1, lines 60-65, Col. 3, lines 30-65) disclose a means for reproducing content (cd player), a recorder and means there between for

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examining and controlling transfer (black boxes) substantially as claimed. The differences between the above and the claimed invention is the use of explicit authentication control. It is noted that a committed content duplicator would control and examine files illicitly copied (and has done so since for at least a decade with the advent of peer to peer file sharing) and is therefore believed to be the functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Otherwise resort can be had to Blatter et al (Fig. 2). Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication. It would have been obvious to the person having ordinary skill in this art to provide a similar arrangement for Ryan because the control elements are conventional functional equivalents and between reproduction and recording selection and control must always exist. Regarding disabling limitations of claim 20, Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication with copy prevention (See Col. 9, lines 55-65) (Note that each of the applied items of evidence prevents and thus disables illegal copying) that is a functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Regarding the enabling limitations claim 21, Ryan (See Fig. 1, Col. 1, lines 60-65, Col. 3, lines 30-65) disclose a means for reproducing content (cd player), a recorder and means there between for examining and controlling transfer (black boxes) for clear text cd which reproduction is enabled(that is common to all cd

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duplication systems) that is a functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Regarding claim 22, Ryan (See Fig. 1, Col. 1, lines 60-65, Col. 3, lines 30-65) disclose a means for reproducing content (cd player), a recorder and means there between for examining and controlling transfer (black boxes) substantially as claimed. The differences between the above and the claimed invention is the use of explicit billing control. It is noted that a committed content duplicator would control and examine files illicitly copied (and has done so since for at least a decade with the advent of peer to peer file sharing) and is therefore believed to be the functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Otherwise resort can be had to Blatter et al (Fig. 4). Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication and billing (element 14). It would have been obvious to the person having ordinary skill in this art to provide a similar arrangement for Ryan because the control elements are conventional functional equivalents and between reproduction and recording selection and control must always exist. Regarding the list limitations claim 23, Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication and billing (element 14) that is a functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Regarding claim 24, Ryan (See Fig. 1, Col. 1, lines 60-65, Col. 3, lines 30-65) disclose a means for reproducing content (cd player), a recorder

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and means there between for examining and controlling transfer (black boxes) substantially as claimed. The differences between the above and the claimed invention is the use of explicit billing control. It is noted that a committed content duplicator would control and examine files illicitly copied (and has done so since for at least a decade with the advent of peer to peer file sharing) and is therefore believed to be the functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Otherwise resort can be had to Blatter et al (Fig. 4). Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication and billing (element 14). It would have been obvious to the person having ordinary skill in this art to provide a similar arrangement for Ryan because the control elements are conventional functional equivalents and between reproduction and recording selection and control must always exist. Regarding the profit limitations claim 25, Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication and billing (element 14) that is a functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Regarding claim 26, Ryan (See Fig. 1, Col. 1, lines 60-65, Col. 3, lines 30-65) disclose a method for reproducing content (cd player), a recorder and means there between for examining and controlling transfer (black boxes) substantially as claimed. The differences between the above and the claimed invention is the use of explicit control. It is noted that a committed content

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duplicator would control and examine files illicitly copied (and has done so since for at least a decade with the advent of peer to peer file sharing) and is therefore believed to be the functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Otherwise resort can be had to Blatter et al (Fig. 2). Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication. It would have been obvious to the person having ordinary skill in this art to provide a similar arrangement for Ryan because the control elements are conventional functional equivalents and between reproduction and recording selection and control must always exist. Regarding the encryption limitations claim 27, Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication that is a functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Regarding claim 28, Ryan (See Fig. 1, Col. 1, lines 60-65, Col. 3, lines 30-65) disclose a method for reproducing content (cd player), a recorder and means there between for examining and controlling transfer (black boxes) substantially as claimed. The differences between the above and the claimed invention is the use of explicit control. It is noted that a committed content duplicator would control and examine files illicitly copied (and has done so since for at least a decade with the advent of peer to peer file sharing) and is therefore believed to be the functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Otherwise resort can be had to Blatter et al

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(Fig. 2). Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication. It would have been obvious to the person having ordinary skill in this art to provide a similar arrangement for Ryan because the control elements are conventional functional equivalents and between reproduction and recording selection and control must always exist. Regarding claim 29, Ryan (See Fig. 1, Col. 1, lines 60-65, Col. 3, lines 30-65) disclose a method for reproducing content (cd player), a recorder and means there between for examining and controlling transfer (black boxes) substantially as claimed. The differences between the above and the claimed invention is the use of explicit control. It is noted that a committed content duplicator would control and examine files illicitly copied (and has done so since for at least a decade with the advent of peer to peer file sharing) and is therefore believed to be the functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Otherwise resort can be had to Blatter et al (Fig. 2). Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication. It would have been obvious to the person having ordinary skill in this art to provide a similar arrangement for Ryan because the control elements are conventional functional equivalents and between reproduction and recording selection and control must always exist. Regarding claim 30, Ryan (See Fig. 1, Col. 1, lines 60-65, Col. 3, lines 30-65) disclose a method for reproducing content

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(cd player), a recorder and means there between for examining and controlling transfer (black boxes) substantially as claimed. The differences between the above and the claimed invention is the use of explicit control. It is noted that a committed content duplicator would control and examine files illicitly copied (and has done so since for at least a decade with the advent of peer to peer file sharing) and is therefore believed to be the functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Otherwise resort can be had to Blatter et al (Fig. 2). Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication. It would have been obvious to the person having ordinary skill in this art to provide a similar arrangement for Ryan because the control elements are conventional functional equivalents and between reproduction and recording selection and control must always exist. Regarding claim 31, Ryan (See Fig. 1, Col. 1, lines 60-65, Col. 3, lines 30-65) disclose a means for reproducing content (cd player), a recorder and means there between for examining and controlling transfer (black boxes) substantially as claimed. The differences between the above and the claimed invention is the use of explicit control. It is noted that a committed content duplicator would control and examine files illicitly copied (and has done so since for at least a decade with the advent of peer to peer file sharing) and is therefore believed to be the functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Otherwise

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resort can be had to Blatter et al (Fig. 2). Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication. It would have been obvious to the person having ordinary skill in this art to provide a similar arrangement for Ryan because the control elements are conventional functional equivalents and between reproduction and recording selection and control must always exist. Regarding the encryption limitations claim 32, Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication that is a functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Regarding disabling limitations of claim 33, Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication with copy prevention (See Col. 9, lines 55-65) (Note that each of the applied items of evidence prevents and thus disables illegal copying) that is a functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Regarding disabling limitations of claim 34, Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication with copy prevention (See Col. 9, lines 55-65) (Note that each of the applied items of evidence prevents and thus disables illegal copying) that is a functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Regarding disabling limitations of claim 35, Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication with copy prevention (See Col. 9, lines

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55-65) (Note that each of the applied items of evidence prevents and thus disables illegal copying) that is a functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Regarding claim 36, Ryan (See Fig. 1, Col. 1, lines 60-65, Col. 3, lines 30-65) disclose a means for reproducing content (cd player), a recorder and means there between for examining and controlling transfer (black boxes) substantially as claimed. The differences between the above and the claimed invention is the use of explicit billing control. It is noted that a committed content duplicator would control and examine files illicitly copied (and has done so since for at least a decade with the advent of peer to peer file sharing) and is therefore believed to be the functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Otherwise resort can be had to Blatter et al (Fig. 4). Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication and billing (element 14). It would have been obvious to the person having ordinary skill in this art to provide a similar arrangement for Ryan because the control elements are conventional functional equivalents and between reproduction and recording selection and control must always exist. Regarding claim 37, Ryan (See Fig. 1, Col. 1, lines 60-65, Col. 3, lines 30-65) disclose a method for reproducing content (cd player), a recorder and means there between for examining and controlling transfer (black boxes) substantially as claimed. The differences between the above and the claimed invention is the

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use of explicit control. It is noted that a committed content duplicator would control and examine files illicitly copied (and has done so since for at least a decade with the advent of peer to peer file sharing) and is therefore believed to be the functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Otherwise resort can be had to Blatter et al (Fig. 2). Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication. It would have been obvious to the person having ordinary skill in this art to provide a similar arrangement for Ryan because the control elements are conventional functional equivalents and between reproduction and recording selection and control must always exist. Regarding the encryption limitations claim 38, Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication that is a functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Regarding claim 39, Ryan (See Fig. 1, Col. 1, lines 60-65, Col. 3, lines 30-65) disclose a method for reproducing content (cd player), a recorder and means there between for examining and controlling transfer (black boxes) substantially as claimed. The differences between the above and the claimed invention is the use of explicit billing control. It is noted that a committed content duplicator would control and examine files illicitly copied (and has done so since for at least a decade with the advent of peer to peer file sharing) and is therefore believed to be the functional equivalent of the

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claimed limitations. Otherwise resort can be had to Blatter et al (Fig. 4). Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication and billing (element 14). It would have been obvious to the person having ordinary skill in this art to provide a similar arrangement for Ryan because the control elements are conventional functional equivalents and between reproduction and recording selection and control must always exist. Regarding claim 40, Ryan (See Fig. 1, Col. 1, lines 60-65, Col. 3, lines 30-65) disclose a means for reproducing content (cd player), a recorder and means there between for examining and controlling transfer (black boxes) substantially as claimed. The differences between the above and the claimed invention is the use of explicit control. It is noted that a committed content duplicator would control and examine files illicitly copied (and has done so since for at least a decade with the advent of peer to peer file sharing) and is therefore believed to be the functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Otherwise resort can be had to Blatter et al (Fig. 2). Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication. It would have been obvious to the person having ordinary skill in this art to provide a similar arrangement for Ryan because the control elements are conventional functional equivalents and between reproduction and recording selection and control must always exist. Regarding the

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encryption limitations claim 41, Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication that is a functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Regarding disabling limitations of claim 42, Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication with copy prevention (See Col. 9, lines 55-65) (Note that each of the applied items of evidence prevents and thus disables illegal copying) that is a functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Regarding disabling limitations of claim 43, Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication with copy prevention (See Col. 9, lines 55-65) (Note that each of the applied items of evidence prevents and thus disables illegal copying) that is a functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Regarding disabling limitations of claim 44, Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication with copy prevention (See Col. 9, lines 55-65) (Note that each of the applied items of evidence prevents and thus disables illegal copying) that is a functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Regarding claim 45, Ryan (See Fig. 1, Col. 1, lines 60-65, Col. 3, lines 30-65) disclose a means for reproducing content (cd player), a recorder and means there between for examining and controlling transfer (black boxes) substantially as claimed. The differences between the

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above and the claimed invention is the use of explicit billing control. It is noted that a committed content duplicator would control and examine files illicitly copied (and has done so since for at least a decade with the advent of peer to peer file sharing) and is therefore believed to be the functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Otherwise resort can be had to Blatter et al (Fig. 4). Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication and billing (element 14). It would have been obvious to the person having ordinary skill in this art to provide a similar arrangement for Ryan because the control elements are conventional functional equivalents and between reproduction and recording selection and control must always exist. Regarding claim 46, Ryan (See Fig. 1, Col. 1, lines 60-65, Col. 3, lines 30-65) disclose a method for reproducing content (cd player), a recorder and means there between for examining and controlling transfer (black boxes) substantially as claimed. The differences between the above and the claimed invention is the use of explicit control. It is noted that a committed content duplicator would control and examine files illicitly copied (and has done so since for at least a decade with the advent of peer to peer file sharing) and is therefore believed to be the functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Otherwise resort can be had to Blatter et al (Fig. 2). Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and

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encryption/authentication. It would have been obvious to the person having ordinary skill in this art to provide a similar arrangement for Ryan because the control elements are conventional functional equivalents and between reproduction and recording selection and control must always exist. Regarding the encryption limitations claim 47, Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication that is a functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Regarding claim 48, Ryan (See Fig. 1, Col. 1, lines 60-65, Col. 3, lines 30-65) disclose a method for reproducing content (cd player), a recorder and means there between for examining and controlling transfer (black boxes) substantially as claimed. The differences between the above and the claimed invention is the use of explicit billing control. It is noted that a committed content duplicator would control and examine files illicitly copied (and has done so since for at least a decade with the advent of peer to peer file sharing) and is therefore believed to be the functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Otherwise resort can be had to Blatter et al (Fig. 4). Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication and billing (element 14). It would have been obvious to the person having ordinary skill in this art to provide a similar arrangement for Ryan because the control elements are conventional functional equivalents and between reproduction and

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recording selection and control must always exist. Regarding claim 49, Ryan (See Fig. 1, Col. 1, lines 60-65, Col. 3, lines 30-65) disclose a medium for reproducing content (cd player), a recorder and means there between for examining and controlling transfer (black boxes) substantially as claimed. The differences between the above and the claimed invention is the use of explicit defined medium. It is noted that a committed content duplicator would control and examine files illicitly copied (and has done so since for at least a decade with the advent of peer to peer file sharing) on blank medium and is therefore believed to be the functional equivalent of the claimed limitations. Note also that the claims read on a blank cd because of intended use limitations. Otherwise resort can be had to Blatter et al (Fig. 2). Hirai (See Figs. 1-2) show reproduction and recording means with system control and encryption/authentication. It would have been obvious to the person having ordinary skill in this art to provide a similar arrangement for Ryan because the control elements are conventional functional equivalents and between reproduction and recording selection and control must always exist.

3. Claims 2-18, 22-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. . 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Certain claims (2, 22, 24, 26 etc) contain the terms "to be..."

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profits should be... apparatus can be...to be distributed" which are not positive limitations since they depend on the performance of future acts. (See In re Collier, 158 USPQ 266) It is not clear what is being claimed. The claims require only a possibility rather than an actual limitation. For example, anything is possible given sufficient time and resources. Claims also appear to be unduly multiplied and should be amended to avoid duplicate limitations.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Salvatore Cangialosi at telephone number (703) 305-1837. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell, can be reached at (703) 305-9768.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

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P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 3600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-5771.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

S. Gangi
SALVATORE GANGIAGO
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 222